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3 MAY 1965

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: DCI Breakfast/Briefing of CIA Subcommittee
House Armed Services - 29 April 1965

1. The Director met with the CIA Subcommittee of House Armed Services for breakfast and regular monthly briefing in the Agency dining room at 8:00 A.M.. The entire meeting lasted some two and one half hours. A listing of Agency personnel present at the breakfast and for the briefing is attached. All members of the Subcommittee were present except Representatives O. C. Fisher, Leslie C. Arends, and Alvin E. O'Konski. Also present from the Committee staff was Mr. John R. Blandford, Chief Counsel.

2. After a general conversation at breakfast, the briefing was opened by Mr. Kirkpatrick with a discussion of the Agency organization, using an organizational chart. Mr. Kirkpatrick noted that the chart was classified Secret and pointed out that this was because the Agency was the No. 1 target of the KGB, and possession of such a chart on the opposing intelligence agency would enable an intelligence service to analyze fairly closely the size, mission, and function of the agency. Mr. Rivers asked how long this form of organization had been in effect, and Mr. Kirkpatrick pointed out that the last major reorganization had been in 1962 when Mr. McCone created the Deputy Director for Science and Technology to group scientific components under one Deputy Director. Therefore, the Agency had reached its present organization from a series of evolutions since its beginning to the present. Mr. Rivers asked if this organization was so set now that we could not take on additional responsibilities. Mr. Kirkpatrick pointed out that we were continually being given additional responsibilities, but since the Agency in recent years had not only held the line on manpower but had even reduced it recently by almost some [redacted] the assumption of new responsibilities required the divesting of other lower priority functions, and he gave a couple of examples of how this might work. Mr. Rivers later expressed surprise and pleasure that we were able to keep this flexibility.

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3. Mr. Cline gave a substantive intelligence briefing, starting with the situation in the Dominican Republic. The Subcommittee members were keenly interested in the changing situation from the opening rebellion by pro-Bosch army officers, who in effect were unable to accomplish their mission, to the takeover of the resulting vacuum by the communists, pro-Castro, and Cuban-trained guerrilla types. Mr. Hebert, noting that we had been reporting on the dangers of the situation for some time, was keenly interested as to what had been done about it. Mr. Cline pointed out that the Dominican government had been warned of the potential for trouble, and Mr. Karamessines added that President Cabral had recently tried to remove from the country the army officers known to be plotting against the government. Mr. Hebert asked what the marines were supposed to do in Santo Domingo and what effect their presence would have, and Mr. Cline said that as the President announced they were to protect American lives and American installations but that their presence would have a steadying effect on the government and they would protect themselves if attacked. In answer to a question, Mr. Cline said the three officers who appeared to be in charge of the government seemed to be reasonably capable and acceptable to this Government.

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5. Mr. Cline then went on to discuss the situation in South Vietnam. Mr. Rivers asked where the large oil depot was in North Vietnam, and when it was pointed out he asked Mr. Cline whether we had recommended that this be bombed. Mr. Cline answered yes, but then elaborated on the point that our function was not to tell people what to do but to point out the effects of various courses of action and in so doing had commented that the bombing of such installations as oil dumps and power plants would be damaging to the North Vietnamese economy. Mr. Rivers asked what would be the effect if the bombing were stepped up in North Vietnam, and Mr. Cline replied that of course the noise level would go up but the major adverse effect might

TOP SECRET

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TOP SECRET

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be the pressure on allies who are currently supporting us to reduce or remove their support.

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Mr. Rivers asked if our own reports from our own sources came directly to us or had to be put through the Ambassador or any other review point. Mr. Cline assured him that our own sources reported directly without any interference and that in addition we got the reports of all the other departments and agencies.

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Mr. Cline replied that there were problems he would be glad to discuss with Mr. Hardy but on the whole he felt the system was working well. Mr. Hardy indicated he planned to go into this further. Mr. Rivers stated that if there were any problems in this area, the Committee was ready to help solve them.

6. Dr. Wheelon then briefed on the functions and projects of his office in outline form due to lack of time. He touched on the fact that the U-2 was approaching the end of its utility for our purposes but that the OXCART was approaching operational status and looking beyond that we had plans for even more advanced techniques for overhead reconnaissance collection. He also touched briefly on satellite reconnaissance, indicating we would be approaching the Committee in the future to give them briefings in depth on all these subjects.

7. After the formal briefing several members, including Mr. Philbin, Mr. Price, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Bates, and the Chief Counsel of the Committee, Mr. Blandford, were given a tour of FMSAC.

8. During the course of the briefing, Admiral Raborn reported his intention to keep the Subcommittee fully informed and mentioned the sensitivity of many of the items,

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Mr. Rivers repeated the warning on security, saying he expected the members, including himself, would mention nothing they heard at this briefing outside of the Subcommittee. He several times expressed his confidence in the Agency and his intention to support it to the hilt and also that he intended frequent briefing sessions with the Agency.

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9. After the session, several members expressed their extreme satisfaction with the briefing and their pleasure with the Agency's frankness and cooperation. In particular, I asked Mr. Philbin if he now understood, after Mr. Kirkpatrick's briefing, how all covert activities of the Agency were coordinated with and directed by the top policymakers of the Government. He said he understood completely, was quite satisfied, and was very much impressed by the whole briefing.

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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

Attachments

Agency Guest List
Subcommittee Guest List
Agenda

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